

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims replaces all other listings and versions of the claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A GG36 protease variant comprising an amino acid sequence ~~consisting essentially~~ of the amino acid sequence of GG36 protease, wherein said variant has ~~and having~~ substitutions at the residue positions equivalent to residue positions 26 and 218 of *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* subtilisin as set forth in SEQ ID NO:[2]3, wherein said substitutions comprise V26T or V26S, and N218S, wherein equivalent positions are determined by primary amino acid sequence alignment, and wherein the variant has protease activity under detergent wash conditions, and wherein the variant has improved thermostability as compared to wild-type GG36.

2-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A DNA encoding the GG36 protease variant of claim 1.

16. (Previously Presented) An expression vector comprising the DNA of claim 15.

17. (Original) A host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 16.

18. (Previously Presented) A cleaning composition comprising the GG36 protease variant of claim 1.